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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/685,333
Applicant : H. KUBO
Filed : October 6, 2000
TC/A.U. : 2685
Examiner : Sonny Trinh

Docket No. : 1807-126
Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 3167

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application.

Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

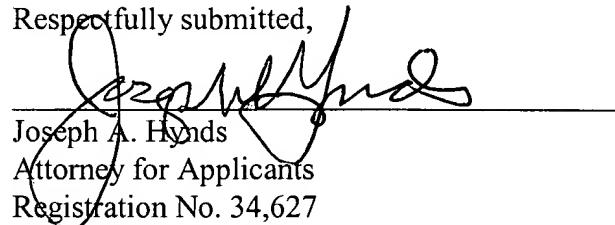
The relevance of any foreign-language reference for which an English-language translation is not provided is as follows.

An English-language abstract for EP 00040731 is submitted herewith. See also attached Supplementary European Search Report.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Hynds", is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph A. Hynds

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  | | | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| | | | | Application Number | 09/685,333 |
| | | | | Filing Date | October 6, 2000 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | H. KUBO |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 2685 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Sonny Trinh |
| | | | | Confirmation No. | 3167 |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 1807-126 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | T ⁶ |
| | | Office ³ Code | Number ⁴ | Kind ⁵ (if known) | | | |
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| | | EP | 0040731 | A1 | Ant Nachrichtentech; Licentia GMBH | 12-02-1981 | AB |
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| Examiner Signature | | | | | Date Considered | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code.

⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.